

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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February 9, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am pleased to extend a hearty congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I am quite sure you are aware, through your role as Chairman, you are in a unique position to serve the public through developing and supporting policies that protect consumers, support competition, and spur innovation and investment in our nation's communications space.

I am pleased to learn through press reports, you have removed the set-top box proposal from circulation to your fellow commissioners. As you may be aware, from the beginning of this proceeding, I have been focused on the effects of FCC policy on diverse and independent programming. The challenges independent programmers face in gaining distribution for their content must not be overlooked or minimized. I was therefore pleased to see that the Commission moved forward on a proceeding started by Commissioner Clyburn to address the challenges faced by independent programmers.

In furtherance of this goal, I urge you to immediately divert the resources that had been allocated to the set-top box proceeding to finding solutions that fix the problems raised by Commissioner Clyburn. By allocating these resources, I believe the Commission should be able to address those issues quickly. It is my hope that with adequate resources and a laser-like focus, we can have very real expectations that solutions would be proposed by June of this year.

In the meantime, I am extending an invitation to meet with me to discuss these issues as well as your proposals for addressing the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Yvette D Clarke
Member of Congress